

HERMAN MILLER AERON CHAIR ADVISORY

Oak Ridge Office (ORO) has been using the Herman Miller Aeron Chair (Figure 1) as an ergonomic office chair. The Aeron chairs come in various colors; however, at ORO most are black.



FIGURE 1: HERMAN MILLER CHAIR

Hairline fractures in the support frame for the seat pan have been identified with several of these Aeron chairs. These fractures can lead to the chair's failure (See Figures 2 and 3). Chair failures have also occurred at the bottom of the Pneumatic Cartridge (see Figure 1) resulting in an abrupt descend from the seat height position.

Factors that can lead to failures include; aging, improper use, material fatigue, improper settings, and extended use (among others). In addition, the manufacturer has specified a maximum weight rating of 300 pounds. Exceeding this rating may contribute to the likelihood of chair failure; therefore, this condition should be reported to the ORO Ergonomics Program Manager fadelg@oro.doe.gov, and the Facility Management Office maintenance@oro.doe.gov. Repairs of chair failures are being made under the manufacturer's warranty; and existing chairs will remain in service. Additionally, users of these chairs should routinely inspect their chairs (recommend monthly). If damage is identified, immediately remove the chair from service, tag the chair with a "Do Not Use" tag (below), and send an e-mail notification to your supervisor, the Ergonomics Program, and the Facility Management Office as previously indicated. A temporary replacement chair will be issued.



FIGURES 2 AND 3: BROKEN SUPPORT FRAME FOR THE SEAT PAN.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: HAIRLINE FRACTURE(S)

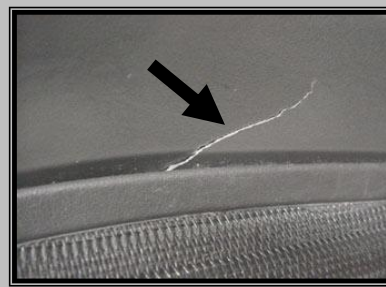


FIGURE 4: HAIRLINE FRACTURE ON EDGE OF SEAT OF AERON CHAIR

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Routinely inspect Herman Miller Aeron chairs you use for damage. Evaluate the chair's support frame on both sides of the seat pan for any hairline fractures (see Figure 4) and swivel chair on its base to detect any grinding/catching in the center of the chair's base (see indicated location in Figure 1).

If you are in doubt about the observed condition of your chair or you would like to request assistance in evaluating your chair, please contact the ORO Ergonomics Program Manager (Gus Fadel) or the Facility Management Office as indicated below.

Even though your ORO management strives to ensure a safe and healthy work environment, every ORO and support services contractor employee is responsible for ensuring that the use of equipment in Federal occupied facilities is in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and/or guidelines.

Do Not Use

E-mail notification of damaged chair sent on _____
Date

Building/Room# _____ Contact: _____
Employee's Name Phone